

DESCRIPTIONS OF SOME NEW MAMMALS

By AUSTIN ROBERTS

DURING last year a large number of mammal specimens were added to the Transvaal Museum collection, amongst which are a few apparently not yet described. Besides these, the following rare species were secured:

Myotis tricolor (Temminck) at Venterskroon, Potchefstroom, collected by Museum staff.

Cloeotis percivali Thomas. Pretoria, collected by Museum staff.

Rhinolophus darlingi Andersson. Pretoria, Museum staff.

Rhinolophus geoffroyi A. Smith (*Zool. Journ.* iv. p. 433, 1829), Lormarins (Paarl), and Klaver, C. P., taken by Museum staff. This name apparently takes precedence over that of *Rhinolophus augur* Andersson (*Ann. and Mag. N.H.* ser. 7, vol. xiv. p. 380, 1904), by which it has been commonly known since the date of its description.

Crocidura cyanea Duvernoy. Lamberts Bay, C. P., taken by Museum staff.

Viverra civetta Schreber. Rustenburg District, taken by W. Powell, and low veld of Zoutpansberg District, taken by Museum staff.

Mungos grandis (Thomas). Rustenburg District, taken by W. Powell.

Heliosciurus flavivittus (Peters). Myiai, 40 miles south-east of Daressalaam, E. Africa. This species was quite common at this place, where *Paraxerus cepapi* (A. Smith) was also quite common, and a specimen, of which the skull was unfortunately lost, was also obtained. *H. flavivittus* was very readily distinguishable in life by the broad white lateral stripe.

Epimys namaquensis grahami mihi. Lormarins (Paarl), Klaver, and Lamberts Bay. This species was originally described from Namaqualand, and it is therefore surprising to find the larger subspecies recently described from Grahamstown occurring so far west. It was rare at all these localities.

Cistugo lesueuri sp. nov.

This genus was first described by Thomas (*Ann. and Mag. N.H.* ser. 8, vol. x. pp. 204-206, 1907) on a single specimen taken in Angola. Apparently no more specimens have since been collected, and it is therefore pleasing to be able to record yet another specimen from so far south, and apparently representing another species. The present one differs most markedly from *Cistugo seabrae* in size, the cranial and external characters seemingly differing but little; there appear to be no glands on the wing, however, and the colouration is somewhat different, both of which may eventually prove to be of little importance. *C. seabrae* is described as: "General colour dull drab, the bases of the hairs everywhere slaty, the tips above drab, below whitish. Membranes brown, with whitish edges, the light-coloured reticulations conspicuous." In the present species, the base of the hair is black, the upper parts as far as the crown terminally "honey-yellow" (Ridgway, 1912), the under parts as far as the chin much paler, yellowish white. The top of the head shows less of the yellowish colour and merges into the dark brown which characterises the face. Hair on the edge of the wing membrane merging from

the yellow of the back to brown externally. Ears and nose almost naked, the former more thickly haired at the base posteriorly. The specimen being a dried skin cannot be accurately described as regards the ears; but apparently the tragus is almost straight on its inner margin, the outer margin convex. In the teeth, which are worn, the inner anterior cusp of P⁴ is in line between the same cusps of P³ and M¹.

The following comparative measurements will serve to show the difference in size:

	<i>Cistugo seabrae</i>	<i>Cistugo lesueuri</i>
Head and body	40	47
Tail	40	43
Tibia and hind foot (c.u.)	18.2	19.5
Ear	12	13
Skull: greatest length	13.2	14
Brain case	6.6	7
Front of canine to back of M ³	4.6	5.3
Forearm	32.5	34.5
Third metacarpal	31.5	33.8
First phalanx	10.7	11
Second phalanx	9.7	10.8

Type, old ♂, T. M. no. 2286, taken at Lormarins, Paarl District, 15th September, 1917, by J. S. Le Sueur, Esquire, by whom it was rescued from a cat.

Eptesicus melckorum sp. nov.

With the general characters of *E. capensis* (A. Smith), but differing therefrom in its much longer tail and larger size; the tail measures 40–45 mm. as against only 30–34 mm. in *E. capensis*, the forearm 35.5–37 as against 32–36, and the skull 14.5–15 as against 14. In colouration the upper parts are externally “avellaneous” (Ridgway) with the base of the hair brown, and the under parts paler, tending to white, with the base of the hair darker brown.

Type, adult ♀, T. M. no. 2283, taken at Kersfontein, Berg River, Cape Province, 21st November, 1917. Also four more adults and a very young specimen captured at the same time in a loft.

Dimensions: Head and body 53, tail 40, hind foot (c.u.) 7, ear 15 mm. Forearm 37; pollex (c.u.) 5.5; 3rd digit, metacarpal 36, 1st phalanx 13.2, 2nd 12.8, 3rd 9.9; 4th digit, metacarpal 35, 1st phalanx 12.2; 5th digit, metacarpal 35.8, 1st phalanx 10.5. Tibia 14. Tragus (dry) on the outer margin 6.3, breadth 2.

Chrysochloris minor sp. nov.

A small species apparently most closely allied to *C. asiatica* (L.), but differing therefrom in its much smaller size. Of about the same size as *C. wintoni* Broom, but differing therefrom in having the skull of the same shape as that of *asiatica*. Colouration much as in *C. asiatica*, specimens from Cape Town and the Frenchhoek valley, but with a more conspicuous sheen of metallic violet. Claws of the forefeet longer and narrower than in *asiatica* in proportion to the size of the species, the claws measuring: 1st 4 mm., 2nd 6.5, 3rd 11 × 4 (as

against 11×5 in *asiatica*), 4th 1.5. Length of the head and body, measured in the flesh, 94 mm.; hind foot (s.u.) 11. The skull similar to that of *asiatica* in outline, though smaller, but with the palate not extending behind the hindmost molar. The upper canine and foremost premolar are in contact, otherwise the position of the teeth is the same as in *asiatica*. Dimensions of the skull are: greatest length 22.1 mm.; basilar length 21.2; greatest width 17; greatest height 11.3; interorbital width, posteriorly 7, anteriorly 7.8; length of upper tooth row, from front of incisors to back of M^3 , 9.5; breadth of palate outside last premolar 8; length of palate to base of incisors 9; greatest length of mandible 14.7; length of mandibular tooth row 7.8.

Type, adult ♀, with fully developed mammae, taken in the sandveld at Klaver, on the Olifants River, Cape Province, 22nd September, 1917. The mammae are as in *asiatica*, one pair situated midway between the fore and hind legs, and one pair inguinal.

Mungos pulverulentus maritimus subsp. nov.

Intermediate between *M. pulverulentus* (Wagner) and *M. ruddi* Thomas, the colouration tending to that of *ruddi*, but with only a slight trace of black, in some individuals, at the tip of the tail. The colouration varies somewhat in individuals, a character also noted of specimens from Knysna, but is on the whole of a much more tawny reddish on the back and particularly on the tail; the base of the hair is pale grey on the back, as compared with dark brown to grey brown in *pulverulentus*, while the tail shows very little brown banding, this giving way to a more uniform tawny brown; the hands and feet and face are also much lighter brown. In the skull also, this subspecies apparently forms a link between the two forms so far regarded as distinct species, but which must now be regarded as merely subspecies. For purposes of comparison, a specimen taken at Lormarins, Paarl District, has been taken as typical, and the measurements of the series, together with those given for *ruddi*, are as follows:

	Paarl	Lamberts Bay	Port Nolloth
Head and body	325	325-360	347
Tail	280	285-325	315
Hind foot	62	62-68	69
Ear	25	16-25	26
Skull:			
Greatest length	67.3	66-72	69
Basilar length	61	61.5-65	—
Zygomatic width	35.5	35-39	39.5
Interorbital constriction	13.5	14.6-15.2	16.5
Length P^4	7.3	7.3-7.5	7
Greatest diameter P^4 ...	9	8.4-8.7	8
" " M^2	4.5	3.8-4	3.6

Type, adult ♀, Lamberts Bay, T. M. 2136, 16th October, 1917. Mammae: 3 abdominal pairs = 6. Six specimens in the series from same locality, from which the above measurements have been taken.

Otomys silberbaueri sp. nov.

A member of the *O. laminatus* group, with nine laminae in M^3 and seven in M_1 ; but differing therefrom in its very dark colouration and larger size.

Colouration: base of the hair on the whole of the upper parts dark slaty black, the external portion tawny and terminally glossy green; the eyes are surrounded by an ill-defined ring of reddish tawny, and the snout is more yellowish; below the base of the fur is greyer, the tips whitish, the sides merging from the colouration of the back to the paler colour of the underparts. Fore feet greyish white, hind feet greyish tawny, darker on the sides and toes, and merging up the limbs to the darker colour of the back. Tail dorsally black, laterally and ventrally uniform dull white. Dorsally in general effect the colour is darker than in the darkest specimens of *Otomys irroratus*. The skull does not differ materially from that of *O. laminatus*, but the tooth row is very much larger, the upper molars measuring 11 mm. as against 10 in *laminatus*. Dimensions, taken in the flesh: length of the head and body 172 mm., tail 110, hind foot (s.u.) 34, ear 24. Skull: greatest length 44.5; zygomatic width 22; width of brain case 16.5; interorbital width 5; nasals, length 20, breadth 7.8; length of upper molar series (crowns) 11; diastema 9.5; length of bullae 7, width (including meatus) 8.5.

Type, old ♂, T. M. no. 2259, taken at Lormarins, Paarl District, 7th September, 1917. Specimens of *Otomys irroratus* were captured in the same marsh